

JAMES RIVER SWCD MONTHLY MEETING

Board of Directors Meeting

March 6, 2008

James River Soil and Water Conservation District held its monthly board meeting on March 6, 2008, at the Prince George Human Services building. Chairman Don Bagshaw called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. opening with invocation. Attendees were:

Directors: Don Bagshaw, Margie Davis, Chris Elko, W. D. Kreider, Mike Likins, Charlie Skalsky

Associates: Scott Reiter

Staff: Linda McAllister, Dan Lee, Suzanne Thore

Agency Partners: Carrie Hagin (DCR), Anthony Howell (NRCS)

Absent: George Beadles, John Kinch,

Guests: Jerry Skalsky, Prince George Board of Supervisors

Mike Likins made a motion to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel issues.
Seconded: Chris Elko. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion to go into Closed Meeting as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712 to discuss personnel issues of the James River Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion carried and meeting was adjourned to closed session.

Motion: Mike Likins

Resolution No. 001

Second: Chris Elko

Meeting date: 03/06/08

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) MEETING

WHEREAS, the James River Soil and Water Conservation District has convened a closed (executive) meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the James River Soil and Water Conservation District that a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the James River Soil and Water Conservation District hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were

identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the James River Soil and Water Conservation District.

VOTES

AYES: 5: Charles Skalsky, Bill Kreider, Mike Likins, Chris Elko, Margie Davis

NAYS: 0 : _____

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None

ABSENT DURING MEETING: None

Donald A. Bagshaw

Secretary of James River Soil and Water Conservation District

A motion was made by Mike Likins and seconded by Charles Skalsky to reconvene into open session.

Only personnel matters were discussed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of February 7, 2008

Draft copies of the February 7th meeting minutes were sent out for review and approval. There were no corrections.

A motion was made that the February minutes be accepted as presented.

Motion made: Bill Kreider. Seconded: Chris Elko. Motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A short report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Skalsky gave a brief report.

AGENCY REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION (DCR):

Carrie Hagin, CDC, provided a written report for the month of March and reviewed highlights. Copy is attached.

Carrie went over questions from the Auditor's review report.

Elected Directors and staff are subject to the Conflicts of Interest Act which was passed out for review.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):

Anthony Howell provided a written report detailing trainings and meetings attended, conservation assistance, projects in progress for the month. Copy is attached.

Computer and Budget Updates:

Due to budget cuts within NRCS, the district will have to pay for computer services received from NRCS. Each district is to only have one computer on the main system

which will cost \$3,000 a year. The covers license, software, updates and technical support. Any other computers in the office, the district will have to provide its own internet system. This will begin FY2009-September 30 is the end of the 2008 fiscal year. A decision must be made on this issue by March 30.

This document received regarding the computer services requires some informational facts regarding conservation plans, acres of land being planted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL:

Dan Lee passed around the financial cost share report and list of plans which had been discussed earlier in a meeting with the Ag Committee. There were cost share applications for Flowerdew Hundred on the James River for SL-15A, which is 5 year continuous no till. The operator farms as 3 different entities and the applications were filed so that the operator did not exceed the district cap of \$25,000. The applications are as follows:

Operator Kevin Engel on all below -

Henrico Farms INC – fields 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,20 total acres 238.68 @ \$100.00 = \$23,868.00

Hanover Ag INC – fields 10,11,12,13,14,15,17,18 total acres 234.84 @ \$100.00 = \$23,484.00

Engel Farms INC – fields 16,19,21 total acres 235.06 @ \$100.00 = \$23,506.00

Total Cost Share \$70,858.00

On the cost share report under Bay Base, unallocated funds are \$35,530.85 and Bay Priority funds are \$23,895.55. This SL-15A is a Bay Priority practice so these funds will be spent first and then Bay Base money will also be used for a grand total of \$59,426.40. This is not the total amount requested. It is the recommendation of the Ag Committee to approve the amount of funding (\$59,426.40) for this SL-15A. Carrie Hagin stated there was a possibility of more money at another district and she will check into this.

Mike Likins made a motion to approve \$59,426.40 for these plans for Kevin Engel.

Seconded: Charlie Skalsky. Motion passed.

The Conservation Plans for James Clements and Calvin Clements were presented in the Ag Committee meeting. Anthony Howell prepared the plans and the Ag Committee has reviewed them for approval.

Charles Skalsky made a motion to approve the conservation plans for James Clements and Calvin Clements. Seconded: Mike Likins. Motion passed.

EDUCATION:

Faith Leaders Workshop:

Stewardship Week is April 27-May 4.

Hosting a Faith Leaders Workshop was approved by the Board at the last meeting. Linda McAllister gave an update on the activity that has occurred to date and the proposed agenda and highlights of the day. A request was made for door prizes and for assistance from the Board on the day of the event. Stewardship Week material has been ordered for

60 churches. This will be advertised in local papers. Another update will be given at the next meeting.

“Living in your Watershed” Booklets

At the December meeting, the district approved a 20,000 copy run of the booklet. A draft of the “Living in your Watershed” booklet is available for review. The project will be completed in time for the Faith Leadership workshop.

Envirothon

The local Envirothon is March 19. Honeywell is sponsoring the tee shirts for the teams again this year. Henricopolis will be participating with their one team and Barbara McGarry will assist the event.

Rain Barrel Workshop

The first two workshops will be April 19th at Chesterfield Town Center and will be a part of the Chesterfield Environmental Fair. There will be training on April 14th. A discussion followed regarding securing, storing and transferring the barrels that will be used.

Farm Day

Herman Maclin, Prince George Extension Office, is in charge of Farm Day which is tentatively scheduled for April 22 at Willie Bresko’s farm. This event will be for Prince George County school’s second grade classes and was requested by the schools.

Scholarships

Bill Kreider had asked about having the district scholarships handled outside of the district. Linda gave a report on follow through plans.

FINANCE:

Approve Financial Reports:

The financial reports for February were distributed at the meeting. Currently, part of the report is in Quickbooks and one spreadsheet is in Excel. The auditors want to see everything put in Quickbooks to be consistent.

A motion was made that the February, 2008 financial reports be accepted as presented.

Motion made: Chris Elko. Seconded: Mike Likins. Motion passed.

A letter has been received from the Finance Director of Prince George County stating \$15,000 has been put in the budget for 2008-09.

PERSONNEL:

There is still some money left from the DCR grant.

Mike Likins made a motion to approve the staff contracting Master Gardeners volunteers in Chesterfield to serve up to 40 hours per month for the next three

months at the going rate to serve as educational backup to the staff. Seconded: Chris Elko. Motion passed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

The Plan needs to be reviewed. A copy will be sent out to Chris Elko.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

May Board Meeting:

This meeting is currently scheduled for May 1st. Chairman Bagshaw has a meeting conflict with the State Association RC&D Council in Wytheville. This will also affect other members and staff. Discussion followed regarding moving the meeting date. This will be brought up under Old Business at the next meeting.

Discussion followed regarding hosting a special May meeting with a tour and whether there is value in planning an event like this. Different scenarios of where to hold the meeting and dates were discussed.

This will be brought up at the next meeting.

Area III Spring Meeting:

The Area III Spring Meeting is March 12. Diane Dunnaway, DCR, will speak on conservation easements. After hearing the presentation, the Chairman will appoint a committee to write up a policy on easements. Don Bagshaw listed the Agenda items and invited board members to attend.

Next year James River SWCD will host the Area III meeting. Discussion followed regarding suitable venues. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Employee's Report

Dan reported he had completed his first year of employment and thanks the district for the employment opportunity. He gave a report on an educational opportunity he will have to work with a group of Boy Scouts from Chesterfield.

NRCS Computer

The district needs to keep one computer on the NRCS computer system. Discussion followed regarding Dan Lee needing access to the Toolkit program.

Mike Likins made a motion to approve the district to fill out and send in to NRCS the required request form for computer service.

Seconded: Chris Elko. Motion passed.

Birthday wishes went out to Carrie Hagin.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Likins made a motion to adjourn until April 3rd at 6:00 PM . Seconded by Chris Elko. The next meeting will be in Chesterfield
The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Thore
Program Support

Don Bagshaw

"The U. S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc. should contact USA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD)."